

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

Lambda Letters Project

32632

Vol. 9, No. 6 June, 2001

www.lambdaletters.org

LambdaLP@aol.com

(916) 965-6851

It's a Small World: Why LLP Reaches Beyond LGBT Concerns

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Once I lived in a small apartment with thin walls. The neighbors on the other side of my living room wall argued a lot and one of them was an accomplished dish thrower. Many times I ducked when sitting in the living room as a dish crashed against the wall behind my head.

The lesson to be learned? We live in a small world and the pain of others can directly affect our own serenity and safety.

In May I issued 23 e-mail alerts urging people to send e-mail messages to legislators in support of bills being tracked by Lambda Letters. Less than half of the alerts were on bills pertaining to HIV/AIDS or lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) rights. Why so few?

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter you will see a list of 73 bills that Lambda Letters is tracking. However, barely a third of the bills that we actively support relate to HIV/AIDS or LGBT rights. Again, why so few?

Continued on page 18

Your Letters Do Work!

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Each month we see new evidence that Lambda Letters' process—and your letters and e-mail messages—are having a positive effect on the legislation that affects our lives.

More and more legislators are calling Lambda Letters and asking us to support their bills. On May 30th, for example, a member of Senator Wesley Chesbro's (D–Santa Rosa) office called me about their bill, SB 381. He said the bill will be voted on in the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 12th. He asked me to do an e-mail alert urging people to write to the committee members in support of the bill.

Earlier this year AB 1193 was to be voted on in the Assembly Insurance Committee. This bill, introduced by Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg (D–Sacramento), would prohibit insurance companies from canceling property insurance, or refusing to offer it, because the insured had submitted insurance claims after suffering a hate crime. The insurance industry opposed the bill.

Lambda Letters issued an e-mail alert urging people to write to the Assembly Insurance Committee in support of the bill. Our members and friends sent

Continued on page 19

In This Issue...

Women's Issue	3
People of Color Issue	3
HIV/AIDS Issue	4
LGBT Issue	4
June Legislative Update	5–17
Dorothy Wouldn't Recognize This Kansas	19

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

April & May, 2001	9,652 letters & e-mails
In all of 2001	21,202 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

April, 2001	\$5,221
In all of 2001	\$16,023

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

Board of Directors

Chair: Lori Norman, Los Angeles, (310) 390-5095, bettyboop_1930@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair: *Vacant*

Recorder: Lynn Dobbs, San Diego, (619) 298-4965, lynn@bethechange.net

Treasurer: Michael Butler, Antelope, (916) 722-6301, mbutler@gvn.net

Larry Beaty, Carmichael, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

Delores Dickerson, San Jose, fdelores@aol.com

Boyce Hinman, Carmichael, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

Ray Leber, Sacramento, (916) 925-5368

Mike Rush, Antelope, (916) 722-6303, rush@gvn.net

Staff

Chief Lobbyist: Boyce Hinman, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Stefan Grünwedel, (650) 566-2057, s-t-e-f-a-n@rocketmail.com

Legislative Analysts:

↳ Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues: Boyce Hinman,
(916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

↳ HIV/AIDS Status and People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez,
(510) 663-7956, mmarr10ez@aol.com

↳ Women's Issues: Adrienne Lauby,
(707) 887-8675, adrienne@metro.net

Web Page Manager: Lynn Dobbs, San Diego,
(619) 298-4965, webmaster@lambdaletters.org

E-mail Alert Advocates:

↳ Federal AIDS Issues: Joe Heller, (520) 762-9787, jrheller@dakotacom.net

↳ State Issues: Boyce Hinman, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com

Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Postmaster: send address changes to
Lambda Letters Project, 4577 Park Blvd. #4, San Diego, CA 92116.

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3" x 2") \$10 per issue,
quarter-page ads \$20 per issue, half-page ads \$30 per issue,
full-page ads \$50 per issue. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy,
along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

☐ Yes, I want to make a donation to help LLP continue its important work.
(Appreciated but not required.)

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ other \$ _____

#

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Corporate Honor Roll

Visionary (\$1,000 or more) or Activist (\$500—\$999)

Your business could be here.

Advocate (\$200—\$499)

California Cable Television Association

Sponsor (\$100—\$199)

Community Clout, Inc.; Sacramento Gender Association

Individual Honor Roll

Visionary (\$1,000 or more)

Mal & Joann Griffin; Ray Leber

Activist (\$500—\$999)

Susan Hopkins; Herb King; Jerome Murphy, M.D.;

Donald Ricart & Albert Bousquet

Advocate (\$200—\$499)

Lucien L. Agosta, Ph.D.; Michael A. Butler & Mike Rush; Sheila Cardno;

Ellie Charlton & Jeanne Barnett; Robert & Rosalee Clarke; Robert B. Clarke, Jr.;

Lele & Rachel Diamond Field; Jeffrey Greer; Stefan Grünwedel; Marylou Hacker;

Jan Hansen & Lynn Dobbs; David L. Hanson; Joseph Heller, Ph.D.;

Boyce Hinman & Larry Beaty; Elaine Hoffman; Wilmer & Betty Hornbostel;

Tom Kaiser & Lee Schoewburt; Gregory T. Lambron; Helen E. & Edward Law;

Delores Lesnick; Marilyn & Lee Mettler; Melissa A. Moore; Lillian D. Ordaz & Eileen Heinrich;

Ken Rainey & J. Michael Lee, M.D.; Mary Rohwer; Jane Schnall; Kathryn Stephens;

Diane Truly; Kevin Watson; M.W. Wells; Mark Whisler; Sue Wolf

Sponsor (\$100—\$199)

Ronald C. Bell; Deborah A. Brooks, CPA; Hal Brown; Ed Doughton & Wallace Sieg;

Shelley S. Doyle & Dian Schaffhauser; Darcie & Lorian Dunlop; John Flick;

Alissa Friedman; Elwood Gerrits; Claudia Hartley; Frank J. Howell; Jesse Joad;

Keith Johnson; Roxanne Kellam; Robert Kevess, M.D.; Gordon L. Larsen, MD;

Carla Leek & Cindi Matsumoto; Adelle Lemon; The Rev. Ann & Norman H. Lougee;

Barry Lynch; Dennis Mangers; Chris Newman; Larry D. Norton & Lawrence Marshall;

M. Jane Pearce; David Posner; Merton F. Preston; James Radcliffe; Meda Rebecca;

G. Robison; Betsy Schwarzentraub; Eunice C. & Young D. Stewart;

Ronald J. Taylor; Samuel Thoron; Andrew Tran

Don't Know Who Represents You?

? Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you. ?

Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP Code _____

Phone _____

Mail to LLP, 4577 Park Blvd., #4, San Diego, CA 92116-2673.

#

Wanted: Comparable Worth Statistics

by Adrienne Lauby

As Lambda Letters Chief Lobbyist Boyce Hinman so clearly pointed out in last month's newsletter article, "Trouble in River City," California's rolling energy greed-out has made legislators wary of any bill that comes with a price tag. If the need of California's citizens were less crucial, we might be able to pack up our lobbying briefcase and take the summer off.

Instead, this month we're looking at a long-term solution for a long-term problem.

In the early 1960s, feminists documented women's earnings at 59¢ per male dollar. Since then, according to Women in Action, feminists of both genders have fought hard to narrow the gap by less than half a penny a year to 72¢. Three decades of prejudice is shocking, yet the statistic hides an even more repugnant truth—that the wage gap has gotten worse for specific groups of women. Hispanic women, for instance, make only 52¢ on the male dollar.

Conservative lawmakers argue that "comparable worth" is a discredited concept. But the National Committee on Pay Equity says we could end gender difference in education and experience tomorrow without touching one-quarter to one-half of the wage gap. As long as women earn 72¢ on the male dollar, as long as African-American men earn 81¢ on white men's earnings, as long as childcare workers (98% female) are paid less than amusement park attendants and car washers, we will support not only the concept of comparable worth but the fight to end sex and race discrimination entirely.

AB 43, "Study on Pay Equity," by Assemblymember Herb Wesson (D—Culver City/LA) requires a study

Web Site Access for Non-English Speakers

by Marty Martinez

Assembly Bill 805, by Assemblymember Kevin Shelley (D—San Francisco) and other Assembly co-sponsors, would require Web sites maintained by state agencies to provide information contained in them to appear in any language other than English that is spoken by a large number of the public served by the agency—including information at least in Spanish and Chinese, consistent with the requirements of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act.

The Web is becoming a principal source of information about government programs and services, services which are utilized by elderly and immigrant populations and by many others who do not speak or read English. Detailed information on benefits acquisition, transit information, and other items are vital to many. In this diverse state it is essential that this information be provided in ways accessible to all.

Please sign the enclosed letter, addressed to your Assemblymember, in support of this bill.

###

to gather gender and wage statistics from California's civil service and higher education systems. It would give the California Commission on the Status of Women the go-ahead to hire experts for a study to recommend practical solutions for the wage gap in these institutions.

This bill would strengthen the commission and give us the information necessary to improve the wages of thousands within these systems. If implemented, these improvements would lift expectations and standards in the private sector.

In 1984 Governor George Deukmejian voted on a study similar to AB 43. Civil rights lawyer Eva Jefferson Patterson recently warned a women's group that UC Regent Ward Connerly, the man who criminalized affirmative action in California's higher education system, plans a state-wide referendum to eliminate the collection of gender statistics by government agencies.

Conservatives know the power of accurate, detailed information. Here at Lambda Letters, we do too. ###

EDGEWATER RESORT

Sandra West & Lora Tell, Owners

Guaranteed the BEST FULL SERVICE Campground
On the 100 Mile Shoreline of CLEAR LAKE
RV - CAMPING - CABINS

6420 Soda Bay Rd., Kelseyville, CA 95451

WEB SITE: www.edgewaterresort.net
E-MAIL: business@edgewaterresort.net

Phone 707-279-0208
Fax 707-279-0138



Oppose Bush's AIDS Budget

by Marty Martinez, AIDS Project East Bay

In April President George W. Bush proposed his first budget for the Ryan White CARE Act, which funds most federal HIV and AIDS programs. He proposed no additional funding for the vital programs that the Act funds.

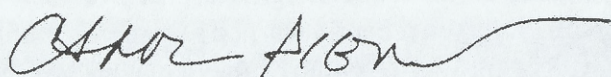
This is the first time since 1990 that a president has not proposed increased funding for the CARE Act. A wide array of programs and services are funded by the Act, including medical care, supporting case management, and access to life-sustaining drugs for those who are underinsured.

This flat-funding amounts to a reduction when you consider that the number of persons who rely upon these programs will increase. More people with HIV and AIDS are thankfully living longer, and thus require access to services throughout their longer lives.

At the same time, the number of new cases of HIV transmission remains shockingly high, particularly among youth and the African-American community. If the Bush budget becomes law there will be a decrease in services available to these individuals. The same amount of money spread over more people amounts to a cut per person.

However, there is hope. As of this writing, the Democratic party is about to take over the Senate. This will give California's two Democratic senators a greater say in rewriting the Bush budget. Please sign and send the enclosed letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein, the more senior Democratic senator from California, who can have a strong impact on keeping the CARE Act strong.

###



Carol Pierce, Ph.D.

M.F.T., Lic. #MFC14864

*Individual &
Couple Counseling
& Psychotherapy*

3990 Old Town Avenue
Suite 207A
San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 299-1043

Help End School Bullying

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Last month we urged you to write to the members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee in support of AB 79, by Assemblymember Sally Havice (D-Cerritos), which would require school districts to create and implement plans for preventing school violence and bullying, and for promoting conflict resolution.

As anyone who has grown up lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered knows, bullying is an everyday experience in America's schools. I know—I went through some really awful harassment and name-calling in grade school. All too often the response from teachers and school authorities is, "Oh well, boys will be boys."

Unfortunately, the level of violence among school children is rising at a terrifying rate—and not just against queer youth. When I grew up, the weapons of choice were fists. Now they are guns. What is causing the upsurge in school violence? It is a dismaying and very disturbing question. No one really knows for sure. However, most shooters in schools have been outcasts in their schools. Many of them have been the subjects of abuse and harassment by their classmates.

AB 79 is very important legislation. It has already been approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee—thanks in part to your letters. It is now with the Senate Education Committee. We think it deserves your support and we urge you to write to the members of the Senate Education Committee and urge them to vote for the bill.

To see a copy of AB 79, go to the Lambda Letters Web site at www.lambdaletters.org. Click on the button that says "Legislative Update" and then scroll down the page until you see "AB 79." Click on that link to read the bill.

###

Don't Know Who Represents You?

Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

June Legislative Update

Late May and early June have two very critical deadlines for state legislation. Any bills likely to cost the state significant amounts of money must be approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee in their house of origin. That approval must come no later than May 31st. Thus all such bills that begin with "AB" must be approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee by that date.

In addition, all bills of any kind must be approved by their house of origin no later than June 8th. Any bill missing either of these deadlines is dead for this year. The following list shows the results as of June 1st. Shortly after June 15th we will post a revised copy of this list on our Web site. It will show which bills were approved by the June 8th deadline.

You will see the phrase "two-year bill" on the status line of several bills in the list. These bills will not be given further consideration until next year. Unfortunately, in many cases legislators have given up on their bills for this year because they think the financial drain on state government, resulting from the energy crisis, means there will be no money to pay for their bills.

Here is a list of the bills we have found so far (as of early June) that relate to our four issue areas.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 142 (Stuart Richman, R-Granada Hills)

Purpose: To prohibit healthcare plans from forcing physicians to pay the cost of certain healthcare services.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 276 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To extend to two years a limitation to issue accusations of violations of the right to be free from violence, intimidation, or threats of intimidation, including for persons claimed to be aggrieved by HIV discrimination.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

See Copies of State Bills

View any state bill on the Lambda Letters Project Web site! Go to www.lambdaletters.org and click on the Legislative Update button. Click on the bill number you're interested in and choose "HTML" to view it.

LLP Position: Support, requesting addition of gender to the list of prohibited bases of intimidation.

AB 916 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the existing requirement for school-based AIDS prevention instruction to include instruction on sexually transmitted infection; and require related instructional materials to be medically accurate and free of ethnic, gender, and racial biases.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

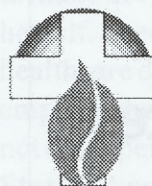
AB 937 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)

Purpose: To require every healthcare service plan that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses to develop a plan establishing risk-adjusted capitated rates for the reimbursement of providers for the treatment of enrollees infected with HIV. Would require the Department of Health Services to develop risk-adjusted capitated rates for treatment of Medi-Cal recipients infected with HIV, in accordance with specified requirements.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

Continued on page 6



Faith Full Gospel Fellowship

www.ffgf.org

"An exciting, affirming & reconciling church for all people building the body of Christ in love."

16248 Carolyn Street, San Leandro, CA - 510.614.5740

Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

AB 1263 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow the state to establish a rapid HIV testing process at designated sites. Test results would be made available to the person in the same appointment at which the test was done.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1292 (Dion Aroner, D-Berkeley)

Purpose: To allow people to purchase and possess intravenous needles and syringes without a prescription. Requires that pharmacies provide purchasers with information regarding safe disposal of syringes.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 37 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: To require healthcare service plans and certain disability insurers to provide coverage for all healthcare services related to the treatment of an enrollee or insured in clinical trials for new cancer medications. The study participant must have been diagnosed with cancer.

Status: Passed by Senate and referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.



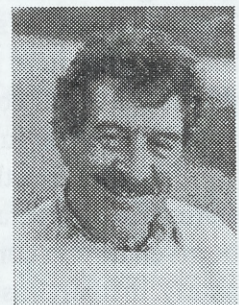
Jackie Speier

SB 187 (John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health to establish and maintain a voluntary program for the issuance of registry identification cards to qualified medical marijuana patients, and to establish procedures under which a patient with the card could use marijuana for medical purposes.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Oppose. NOTE: A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision stated that in spite of Proposition 215, a person may be prosecuted under federal law for possession of marijuana. The court said that medical necessity does not justify possession. So signing up for a marijuana registry card may be signing a confession to violation of federal law.



John Vasconcellos

SB 446 (John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require that a healthcare plan or contract with the Board of Administration of the Public Employee's Retirement System shall not exclude from coverage any vaccine for AIDS that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 622 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To require that the State Department of Health Services shall revise the Dental-Cal program to include as outpatient services home- and community-based services approved by the Department of Health and Human Services, for beneficiaries with a diagnosis of AIDS (or ARC) who require immediate care or a higher level of care.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Senate for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

MELINDA M. WHITEWAY
Attorney and Counselor at Law

Whiteway Law Offices

2409 Pine Knoll Drive #7
Walnut Creek, CA 94595-2173
Phone: 925-984-8833
Fax: 800-878-3188
E-mail: MelindaMW@aol.com

Continued on page 7

Legislative Update

Continued from page 6

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues

AB 25 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow opposite-gender senior citizen couples to register as domestic partners if one of them is over 62 (currently both must be over 62); allow people to make medical decisions for their partners under certain circumstances; require certain insurers to offer domestic partner coverage in their group health or disability plans; require many employers to allow employees time off to care for a sick domestic partner; require that a domestic partner be given preference when conservatorship is being considered for a person; add domestic partners to the statutory will form; remove the income tax liability for employer-provided domestic partner health insurance; allow people to receive unemployment insurance, under certain circumstances, when they quit a job to follow a domestic partner. The bill reverses the feature of AB 26, passed in 1999, which allows state and local governments to offer health insurance to the domestic partners of their retirees, but which terminates the insurance for the partner if the retiree dies first.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 64 (Elaine Alquist, D—Santa Clara)

Purpose: To provide a state income tax deduction for the premiums paid by a taxpayer for long-term care insurance on the taxpayer and his or her spouse and dependents.

Status: Referred to Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. No date set yet for hearing. May become a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support if domestic partners are added alongside spouse. Alquist may add domestic partners to the bill at the request of Lambda Letters.



Sally Havice

AB 79 (Sally Havice, D—Cerritos)

Purpose: To require schools to prepare plans for protecting the safety of students against bullying

by their classmates (a big problem for queer youth) and plans for conflict resolution.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Will probably be referred to the Senate Education Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 194 (John Longville, D—San Bernardino)

Purpose: To clarify the process to be used by California courts when certain post-operative transsexuals request legal recognition of their new sex.

Status: Passed by Assembly Health Committee. Sent to floor of Assembly. Has been put on the inactive file while the author seeks the votes needed for passage.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is the bill's sponsor.

AB 1193 (Darrell Steinberg, D—Sacramento)

Purpose: To provide that an insurer issuing policies protecting against certain residential, liability, and commercial risks may not cancel or refuse to renew a policy solely on the basis that one or more claims have been made against the policy, during the previous six months, for a loss that is the result of a hate crime committed against a church, nonprofit, or related entity. Would require insurance companies to report these claims to the State Insurance Commissioner under certain circumstances. Bill is now supported by the insurance industry.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1278 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To make a number of technical but helpful changes to the laws regarding probate and regarding healthcare decision-makers when the patient is unable to make decisions for him- or herself. Specifically permits a domestic partner to make healthcare decisions for a patient in a facility that employs the domestic partner, as long as the partner is not the supervising healthcare provider for the patient.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the full Assembly. Sent to the Senate and



Howard Wayne

Continued on page 8

Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1326 (Denis Mountjoy, R-Arcadia)

Purpose: To prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public education.

Status: Assigned to Assembly Education Committee. Hearing cancelled at request of author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1338 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)

Purpose: To establish a legal entity called a civil union, similar to that established in Vermont. Allows two adults to enter a civil union. Does not require that they be of opposite sexes. Declares that the rights and responsibilities of those who enter a civil union shall be the same as for those who get married.

Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1395 (Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield)

Purpose: To provide funding for counseling of adoptive parents and children, including issues that arise during the adoptive child's adolescence.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: We will watch this bill to see if the counseling might include aversion or other inappropriate therapy for LGBT youth.

AB 1649 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is a sponsor of the bill.

SB 143 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Attorney General to provide grants to community-based hate violence prevention

Continued on page 9

OUTWORD

the word is out. in-depth news • entertainment • feature articles • commentary • perspective • advertising • events • current issues

709 28th Street • Sacramento, California • 95816-4116 • 916.329.9280 • Fax 498-8445 • news@outword.com • www.outwired.com

Legislative Update

Continued from page 8

and response networks.

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 144 (Kevin Murray, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Attorney General to establish, operate, and publicize a toll-free telephone number and a Web site to allow victims and witnesses to report hate crimes.

Status: Failed in Senate Public Safety Committee.

LLP Position: Support.



Kevin Murray

SB 381 (Wesley Chesbro, D—Santa Rosa)

Purpose: Current law requires city and county Human Relations Commissions to promote mutual understanding and respect of certain groups in society. This bill adds certain groups to the groups listed in current law. The new list includes people of all sexual orientations, but does not include people of all gender identities. We have asked Senator Chesbro to add gender identity to the list. At the request of Lambda Letters, gender has been added to this bill.

Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on June 12th.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1049 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)

Purpose: To provide that in San Mateo County, subject to the approval of the board of supervisors, death benefits and survivor's allowances may be payable to a member's surviving domestic partner, as specified.



Deborah A. Brooks

Certified Public Accountant

- ACCOUNTING
- TAX PLANNING
- TAX PREPARATION

My Place or Yours!

5350 Marysville Road
Browns Valley, California 95918

P.O. Box 248
800-600-9339

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1121 (Bob Margett, R—Arcadia)

Purpose: To provide a tax credit of 40 percent, subject to federal income tax laws, for corporations that hire qualified state disability insurance recipients, including individuals with HIV and AIDS. Also to provide extended unemployment compensation disability insurance for an additional 26 times an individual's weekly benefit amount to complete approved job training or occupational rehabilitation, as specified.

Status: Made a two-year bill. It will not be acted upon until next year because the energy crisis is draining the state's financial reserves. Bill will be reconsidered next year once the state's financial picture is clearer.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 5 (Thomas Calderon, D—Montebello)

Purpose: To prohibit an insurer from refusing to issue or renew insurance on a private passenger car solely on the basis of a consumer credit report.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 8 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow the state to make grants and loans of up to \$55,000 for reconstruction of commercial and industrial buildings in certain downtown areas, when the buildings will provide low-cost rental housing.

Status: Passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 14 (Jackie Goldberg, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide an alternative mechanism for funding schools and provide funds for the purpose.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 32 (Keith Richman, R—Chatsworth)

Purpose: To create the Cal-Health Program to be administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance

Continued on page 10

Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

Board. Under the program the board would contract with healthcare service plans and disability insurers to provide a range of healthcare coverage options, including a standard uniform benefits package that would be available for purchase at subsidized rates by persons with limited incomes. This bill would require healthcare service plans and disability insurers to offer the standard uniform benefits package and also to offer a catastrophic high-deductible healthcare plan.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 39 (Helen Thomson, D-Woodland)

Purpose: To allow a tax credit, under certain circumstances, to small employers who pay all or part of the cost of health insurance for their employees.

Status: Referred to Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 42 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To establish a state-funded colorectal cancer screening program to be provided to uninsured or under-insured persons, over the age of 50 and with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Status: Passed Assembly Health Committee and sent to Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 48 (Carl Washington, D-Paramount)

Purpose: To require the state to implement a three-

year demonstration project to make grants to eligible alcohol and drug integrated treatment services networks, as defined, in certain counties.

Status: Bill is being amended to specify that funding will come from general funds of the state. Approved Failed passage in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 51 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To make a statement regarding the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would establish a comprehensive program to identify and abate sources of lead exposure in the state's schools to ensure that all lead hazards in all public schools in the state be identified and mitigated as quickly as possible. Most of the worst schools with lead-based paint are in poorer ethnic neighborhoods.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 59 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To expand eligibility of children in low-income families for health insurance coverage through the Healthy Families Program. Children are eligible if they are receiving food stamps or participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children; in Head Start; or in the federal school lunch program. The bill requires new procedures to encourage enrollment in the Healthy Families Program.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.


LLP Position: Support.



Gil Cedillo



AB 108 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D-Duncan Mills)

Purpose: To require the state to issue a pharmacy license to authorize the operation of a pharmacy located on the land of a recognized Indian tribe without a pharmacist licensed under California's pharmacy law



Expo Travel

2100 Arden Way, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 920-1701
(800) 879-8785
FAX (916) 920-3290
E-mail: mp.expo@uniglobe.com
<http://www.gaytravel-expo.com>



Uwe W. Thaysen
Director of Marketing

The World's Largest Single-Brand Travel Franchise.
Each Agency Independently Owned and Operated.

Continued on page 11

Legislative Update

Continued from page 11

AB 503 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D—Duncan Mills)

Purpose: To establish a grant program for public schools in California to develop, expand, and strengthen dual-language education programs. These programs are taught in both English and a minority language. It allows English language-native children to become proficient in both English and another language. It allows other students to become proficient in both their native language and English.

Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 540 (Marco Firebaugh, D—East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow all graduates of California high schools, under specified conditions, to pay the California resident tuition rate for attending a California public college or university. Would allow many immigrant students, who now must pay the much higher non-resident tuition, to pay the resident tuition instead.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. NOTE: The bill was amended to get it approved by the Assembly Education Committee. The bill now contains no more than a statement of the legislature's intent. The author hopes to re-amend much of the bill's original language and purpose back into the bill this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 548 (George Runner, R—Lancaster)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to establish a specialty care program for persons who have had problems accessing specialty care.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 596 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D—Montclair)

Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to test all inmates for hepatitis C 60 days prior to being paroled, as specified. This bill would also require inmates who test positive for the virus to complete a hepatitis C education program administered by the Department of Corrections. Would also require the department to see if an inmate, who tests positive for

hepatitis, qualifies for veteran's health benefits and to inform the inmate if he or she qualifies.

Status: Referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee. Hearing cancelled at author's request. Bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 675 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To provide for improved due process and notification procedures involving the compassionate release of prisoners with HIV/AIDS or other diseases who have six months or fewer to live and who are deemed not to be a threat to the public.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee. No Hearing date set yet.

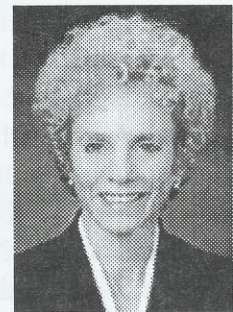
LLP Position: Support.

AB 698 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To create the Office of Immigrant Assistance in the office of the Attorney General to provide education and outreach services, as defined, to the resident immigrant community of the state. Would also require that the information developed for these purposes be printed or broadcast in any language deemed necessary to reach immigrant communities.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.



Carole Migden

Continued on page 13

Discrimination Complaint?

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?

If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

Legislative Update

Continued from page 12

AB 763 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that information and materials provided over the Internet explaining services available from a state agency, or notice of availability of materials made in electronic form consistent with use over the Internet, shall be translated into any non-English language spoken by a substantial number of people served by the agency, and also distributed through any applicable Web sites under those circumstances.

Status: Dropped by the author. The provisions of this bill are being added to AB 805.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 788 (Marco Firebaugh, D-East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To broaden the definition of racial profiling by state or local police. Provides for money damages from law-enforcement personnel and public agencies to victims of racial profiling. Requires state and local police forces to report traffic stops and to include data about the stops relating to possible racial profiling. Specifies that such reports not include information by which the person stopped could be identified. Would also make police officers and their agencies liable for violation of racial profiling laws.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 800 (Herb Wesson, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Prohibits employers from requiring any particular language to be spoken in the workplace unless there is a business need for it.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 805 (Kevin Shelly, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require each state agency that maintains a Web

site to provide links on its home page to appropriate non-English information, including information at least in Spanish and Chinese, consistent with the requirements of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 989 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

Purpose: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish programs to provide food assistance and cash assistance for non-citizens who, due to their immigration status, are not eligible for federal food stamps and for SSI/SSP benefits. Law also specifies that an applicant who is otherwise eligible for the program but entered the U.S. after August 22, 1996, and who is not otherwise exempt, shall be eligible for assistance for the period beginning on October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2001. This bill would eliminate the termination date of that period of eligibility. People in need could continue getting assistance.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

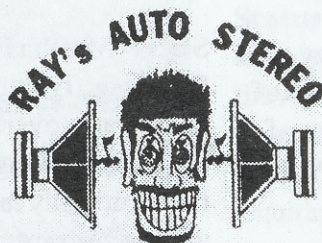
AB 1321 (Dion Aroner, D-Berkeley)

Purpose: To create the Health



Dion Aroner

Continued on page 14



Established 1968

**FREE
ESTIMATES**

- Vintage auto radio restoration and repair — all years.
- Custom sound installations for classics and street rods.
- Vehicle anti-theft and anti-car hijacking systems.
- Troubleshooting and repair of charging systems, electrical accessories and wiring problems in pre-1980 vehicles.
- We rewire street rods and classics.

1925 F Street, Sacramento • (916) 447-9753

This newsletter printed on recycled paper

Legislative Update

Continued from page 13

Utilities Board which would be charged with providing comprehensive, quality health care to all Californians and controlling health care costs through rate setting, eliminating waste and inefficiency, and achieving public accountability for meeting standards of high quality care.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1423 (Helen Thomson, D–Davis)

Purpose: To include licensed marriage and family therapist, and clinical social worker, services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits to the extent that federal matching funds are available, including home- and community-based services approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for beneficiaries with a diagnosis of AIDS (or ARC) who require intermediate care or a higher-level of care.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

ABX13 (Roderick Wright, D–South Central Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the California Public Utilities Commission to take steps to increase participation in the CARE Program, an electric and gas payment assistance program for low-income people.

Status: Signed by Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

ACR 17 (George Nakano, D–Torrance)

Purpose: To declare February 19, 2001, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 21 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

Purpose: To require school districts to inspect all schools constructed prior to 1992 for lead hazards and to devise an appropriate abatement plan, where necessary; to require the Department of Health Services to provide technical assistance; to require the school

district to carry out the abatement of lead hazards; and to require school districts, subject to funding being made available, to provide training to maintenance workers to enable them to properly identify and abate lead hazards.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 30 (Wesley Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Mental Health, the Department of Finance, and the Office of the Legislative Analyst to form a workgroup to study various options to restructure mental health services and funding in California; and to require the workgroup to make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor Davis on or before January 31, 2002.

Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support. People of color certainly have no more mental health problems than anyone else. However, they are among the most uninsured in the state and whatever insurance is available often has little or no mental health coverage.

SB 41 (Deirdre Alpert, D–San Diego)

Purpose: To require the State Librarian to allocate grants to develop Native American instructional materials for public schools.

Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Education Committee. No hearing date set yet..

LLP Position: Support.

SB 59 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

Purpose: To authorize demonstration projects to allow healthcare coverage for immigrants, homeless individuals, people living with HIV/AIDS, and other populations currently facing health disparities. The bill would authorize grants to healthcare providers and community-based clinics to organize into formalized networks that provide healthcare services to migrant populations as they move through the state during the year. The bill would authorize grants to establish demonstration projects that would assist healthcare providers in developing enabling programs making the targeted groups aware of the healthcare programs available to

Continued on page 15

Legislative Update

Continued from page 14

them.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 98 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)

Purpose: To permit certain cities and counties to contract with the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, jointly, to provide specified services under the Medi-Cal program to low-income persons with a dual diagnosis of alcohol or drug addiction and serious, persistent mental illness.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 410 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from requiring employees to agree to arbitrate any claim arising under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Would prohibit employers from firing, harassing, expelling, or otherwise discriminating against an employee for

refusing to agree to such arbitration.

Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on April 17th. Hearing cancelled by author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 987 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

Purpose: To require proper implementation of the previously passed Dymally-Alatorre Act. That act required state and local agencies to offer their services in languages other than English when there is a significant need. Surveys have found that many agencies are not complying with the earlier act.

Status: Approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Senate for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 4 (Patricia Bates, R–Laguna Nigel)

Purpose: To require people convicted of certain sex offenses to register with the campus chief of police and with the local chief of police or sheriff for the rest of their lives and whenever they enroll in any university, college, or community college. This bill would also revise the current registration provisions, involving university and college campuses, to include transients and employees at these institutions and to require registrants to appear personally to notify the campus police department within five working days of changing his or her location or of ceasing to be enrolled or employed at the college or university.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support while expressing concern about requiring lifelong registration.



Patricia Bates

AB 6 (Tony Cardenas, D–Mission Hills)

Purpose: To permit schools to establish before- and after-school enrichment programs for children, and to establish maximum grants for these programs.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a



WHISLER LAND COMPANY

For All Your Real Estate Needs

Commercial and Residential Sales 916-446-6666

Property Management and Rentals 916-446-6663

Serving Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Solano, San Francisco, and Yolo Counties, and Outlying Areas Since 1975

Proud Supporters of Our Community and many of its Organizations

www.whisler.com

Continued on page 16

Legislative Update

Continued from page 15

final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 43 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate the compensation and classification plans for state civil service and related employees and the employees of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and the California State University and to determine where compensation and classification inequities exist, based on comparability of the value of work. It would require the commission to report to the Legislature and the parties meeting and conferring under the Ralph C. Dills Act.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee. Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Public Employees Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 130 (Tony Cardenas, D—Sylmar)

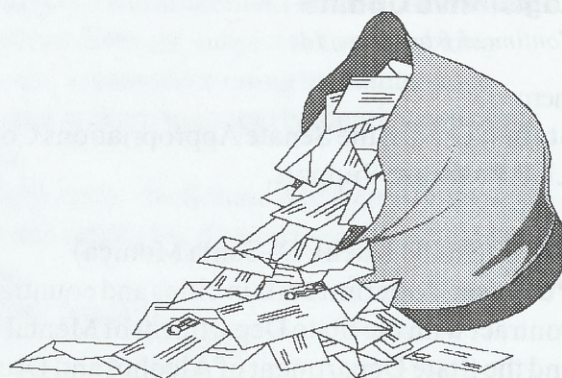
Purpose: To expand and reorganize a state-funded family planning program to make it a comprehensive preventive and health screening program for low-income women under 65. Would provide funding for family planning services, but specifically excludes funding for abortion-related services or advice. Current law already prohibits spending for abortions and this law leaves that provision unchanged.

Status: Appropriations Committee and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support with reservations about the abortion issue.

AB 160 (Patricia Bates, R—Laguna Niguel)

Purpose: To specify that a restraining order or protective order has precedence over any civil court order pertaining to the same persons. Would prohibit criminal courts with jurisdiction over civil matters from issuing orders that are not in compliance with a restraining or protective order issued against a defendant in a domestic violence criminal case. Would prohibit courts with jurisdiction over domestic violence criminal cases from issuing restraining or protective orders against a defendant that allow a civil court to compromise the protec-



tions provided by the order. Would provide that restraining or protective orders issued in domestic violence criminal cases shall remain in force throughout a defendant's sentence, including incarceration, probation, and parole.

Status: Appropriations Committee and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 180 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To exempt from state sales tax items sold by a thrift store in support of an agency that provides services to people with cancer or a terminal illness. Current law already provides an exemption for thrift stores that support agencies that serve people with HIV or AIDS. This bill eliminates the ending date for the tax exemption which is in current law.

Status: Appropriations Committee and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 731 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To clarify and strengthen the rules for enforcing restraining orders that were issued by courts outside of California.

Status: Passed by Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Santa Monica)

Purpose: To require the court, when considering issuance of a protective order, to search specified records and databases to determine if the proposed subject of the order has any specified prior criminal convictions or outstanding warrants, is on parole or probation, or is or was the subject of other protective or restraining orders. Would require the prosecuting

Continued on page 17

Legislative Update

Continued from page 16

attorney, in all prosecutions of certain crimes when a conviction is obtained, to cause a search to be made of specified databases, for review by the court, to determine if the defendant is the subject of any protective or restraining orders and to notify other courts of the pending prosecution.

Status: Passed by Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Senate for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 217 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require counties to include in the county CalWORKS plan the development of services to domestic violence victims, and to specify services to assist victims of domestic violence to become self-sufficient. CalWORKS is a program designed to help welfare recipients return to work.

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 224 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)

Purpose: To require the department of Health Services to submit a state plan amendment to the federal Health Care Financing Administration adopting the optional categorically needy eligibility group described in the federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000, thereby providing breast and cervical cancer treatment under the Medi-Cal program, subject to federal financial participation. The optional categorically needy described in the federal bill are low-income people being given cancer treatment, paid for by the state, but whose circumstances do not allow the state to request matching federal funds to help cover the cost of the treatment.

Status: Passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Senate for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 927 (Martha Escutia, D—Norwalk)

Purpose: To require the appointment in domestic

violence proceedings, and in other settings mandated by the court, of an interpreter for a person who is deaf or hearing-impaired as well as the appointment of a foreign language interpreter for a person not proficient in English; to require certified sign language interpreters in these proceedings; and to limit the services of foreign language interpreters to certified interpreters. The bill would provide for the waiver of fees for an interpreter for a petitioner who is not proficient in English in domestic violence proceedings, as well as for any person who appears *in forma pauperis* (with court fees waived), or for any other party pursuant to a court order. This bill would also require the Judicial Council to establish additional domestic violence training requirements for interpreters, as specified, and to conduct a public education and notification program

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 993 (Liz Figueroa, D—Fremont)

Purpose: To increase the amount of money paid by the state to

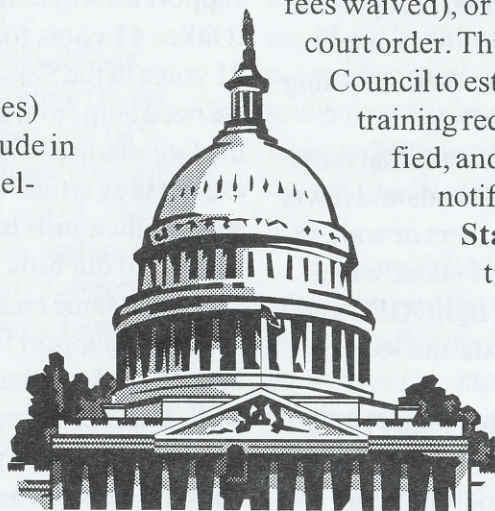
child care centers for the cost of caring for low-income children.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and referred to the Senate Committee on Education. Has been made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

###

Welcome to the 300
new members who
signed up at the 2-day
Long Beach pride
fesitval!



It's a Small World

Continued from page 1

Periodically I receive complaints from people who believe that Lambda Letters is "wasting too much time on issues that don't relate to our community." I think it's time to discuss this issue again.

Why does Lambda Letters spend so much time on women's issues and issues of concern to people of color? There are several reasons. Just as the bills of importance to those groups have a direct effect on the health and well-being of women and minorities, so to does the welfare of others have a direct effect upon the lives of people in the LGBT community. For example, assuring that immigrants get a good education, including a quality college education (at California's public colleges and universities if necessary), means that more of them will become highly paid professionals and fewer will end up as low-paid agricultural workers or waiters/waitresses. High-paid workers pay more taxes, which means more money will be available to fight AIDS and to offer domestic partner benefits to state and local government employees.

It should be rather obvious, too, that many in the LGBT community are also women or minorities! They may be queer and care about queer issues, but they also care about issues that affect them as women and minorities. People often tell me they are intensely loyal to Lambda Letters just because we care about issues that affect all aspects of their lives, including their gender and race. Lambda Letters needs all the help it can get to assure that the needs of the LGBT community are met by our elected officials. If working on women's and minority issues brings in more loyal supporters, then that's a good way of meeting our responsibility to the LGBT community.

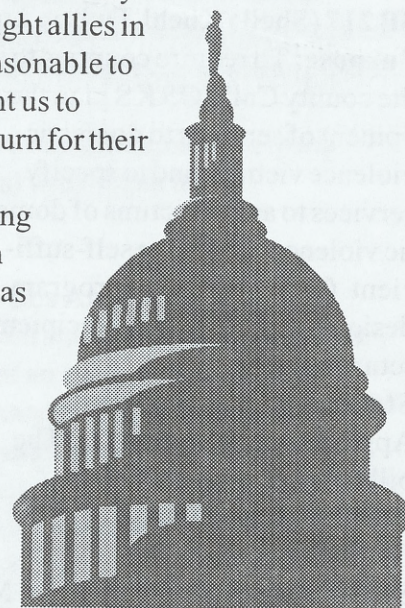
Another fundamental answer to the question I have posed is that there are simply fewer HIV/AIDS and LGBT bills in the Legislature than there are on women's issues and issues of concern to people of color. That results from at least two factors. First of all, there are only four "out" queer legislators in our state Legislature—all of them women: Jackie Goldberg (D—Los

Angeles), Christine Kehoe (D—San Diego), Sheila Kuehl (D—Los Angeles), and Carole Migden (D—San Francisco). By contrast, there are 23 Latino/a state legislators, 6 African-American legislators, and 33 women legislators. They naturally introduce legislation of interest to their communities. In order for Lambda Letters to support more LGBT bills, there needs to be more bills on those subjects introduced. And that probably requires the election of more LGBT people to the state Legislature.

These numbers also indicate another reason to support bills of concern to women and people of color. It takes 41 votes for a bill to pass in the Assembly and 21 votes in the Senate. Obviously we need help from straight allies in the Legislature. It's reasonable to expect they would want us to support their bills in return for their support of our bills.

That same reasoning applies to support from outside the Legislature as well. Last February we reached the last day on which bills could be introduced in the state Legislature. We still had not found a legislator willing to introduce our bill to ban discrimination against transgendered people. I called several lobbying groups asking them to call legislators and urge them to introduce the bill. The lobbyist of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund was one of those who did call the Legislature. Her call may well be part of the reason why our bill was introduced. I am sure that our years of support of the bills of importance to Latinos/as helped persuade her to make the necessary calls.

A second reason for the lower number of HIV/AIDS and LGBT bills in the Legislature is that, despite the LGBT community's reputation as a formidable political force, we actually have relatively little political clout in Sacramento and on political affairs in general. That fact is illustrated by our loss, a few years ago, on Proposition 22 (the anti-gay marriage initiative) and the fact that Governor Davis signed only one gay-rights bill



Don't Know Who Represents You?

? Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you. ?

It's a Small World

Continued from page 18

last year—and a minor bill at that, one that protected queer people's right to serve on juries. Governor Davis vetoed all the other queer-rights bills that reached his desk last year.

As I said, we did not persuade a legislator to introduce our transgender civil rights bill until the very last day on which it could be introduced. That was in spite of the fact that Lambda Letters and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE) had been working very hard to get it introduced.

In the last analysis, all the bills that Lambda Letters supports are important bills. Some of them don't relate specifically to LGBT issues or to HIV/AIDS, but they do affect the lives of many women and people of color. We do live in a small world. The suffering of others does affect the safety and serenity of all our lives. It is important to vigorously support legislation in all of the areas addressed by Lambda Letters.

###

Your Letters Do Count!

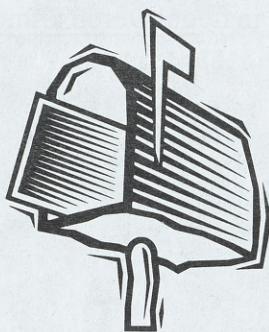
Continued from page 1

almost 870 e-mail messages of support for the bill to the committee. The bill was approved and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

I called Mr. Steinberg's office to see if they would like us to do an alert to get messages of support to the Appropriations Committee. Steinberg's chief of staff told me that wouldn't be necessary. She said the volume of mail we sent to the Insurance Committee created a groundswell of support for the bill among legislators. The insurance industry saw the handwriting on the wall and, after negotiating a few modifications to the bill, agreed to support it. Steinberg now expects the bill to sail smoothly through the Legislature.

So you see, your letters and messages do count! We hope you will stay involved and that you will persuade your friends and family to join Lambda Letters. The more people involved, the more effective we can be.

###



Dorothy Wouldn't Recognize This Kansas

by Boyce Hinman

Recently, we received the following very interesting article from GenderPAC a national gender-rights group:

"In a surprising victory for gender rights, the Kansas Court of Appeals unanimously overturned a lower court's ruling that J'Noel Gardiner, a transsexual, could not have been legally married to her now-deceased husband, Marshall. The justices ruled that the lower court must decide whether a person is female or male at the time of marriage, not just at birth, remanding the case back to the lower court for further adjudication.

"GenderPAC had filed in support of Ms. Gardiner, and the GenderPAC brief was specifically mentioned by the justices in their ruling. Commented Executive Director, Riki Wilchins, 'We commend the Court for a far-sighted ruling, and continue to believe all people should have the legal right to be recognized in their proper gender. We hope the lower court will agree with us, and the Court of Appeals, that there is more legal sex than chromosomes.'

"The Court held in part that 'in most other senses of the word, [Gardiner] was female. The same science which allows us to map the genome and explore our DNA requires us to recognize these discoveries in all aspects of our lives, including the legal ramifications. We can no longer be permitted to conclude who is male or who is female by the amount of facial hair one has or the size of one's feet.'

"Marshall Gardiner's son, Joe, had brought the suit in an attempt to contest Ms. Gardiner's inheritance of the substantial estate. The GenderPAC brief was written by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and was also signed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri."

The complete ruling can be read on the Web at www.kscourts.org/kscases/ctapp/2001/20010511/85030.htm

###

Holsworth's

at Verona Village

Open for Dinner Fri & Sat 5-10pm
6985 Garden Highway - Nicolaus, CA 95659
530.656.1320 - veronavil@aol.com

Verona Village
Garden Hwy
Riego Road
Hwy 99 North
Yuba City
Marysville
I-5 North